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EXAMINER

THANGAVELU, KANDASAMY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2123

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/857,685

Applicant(s)

ZIAKOVIC ET AL.

Examiner

Kandasamy Thangavelu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 9 and 12-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) *
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7 June 2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-30 of the application have been examined.

Foreign Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application 99 12563 filed in France on October 8, 1999 and the PCT FR00/02798 filed on October 9, 2000. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. Acknowledgment is made of the information disclosure statements filed on June 7, 2001 together with copies of the patents and papers. The patents and papers have been considered.

Drawings

4. The drawings submitted on June 7, 2001 are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. Claims 1-6, 8-9, 12-20 and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Matsuura** (U.S. Patent 5,615,318) in view of **Liepa** (U.S. Patent 6,232,980).

7.1 **Matsuura** teaches Method and apparatus for visualizing assembled sewing patterns. Specifically, as per claim 1, **Matsuura** teaches a method of viewing a garment made up of garment pieces, represented by data stored in a memory of a computer, and having seam lines (CL1, L9-13; CL1, L21-23; Fig. 11, Item S40; CL9, L22-27; CL10, L51-54), on a dummy model having a surface represented by data stored in a memory of a computer (CL1, 48-50; CL1, L51-55; CL2, L25-28; Figs. 7 and 8; Fig. 11, S30; CL8, L20-25; CL9, L63-64; CL10, L29-31; CL10, L32-33); the method comprising:

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placing the garment pieces on the surface of the dummy model and joining together the garment pieces along their seam lines (CL1, L35-37; CL2, L29-33; Fig. 11, S50; CL8, L27-30).

Matsuura teaches allowing the user to learn an estimated shape of assembled sewing patterns approximate to the wearing conditions of the clothes (garments) (CL2, L11-13; CL4, L28-33). **Matsuura** does not expressly teach relaxing each garment piece from its position on the surface of the dummy model to its equilibrium position on the dummy model. **Liepa** teaches relaxing each garment piece from its position on the surface of the dummy model to its equilibrium position on the dummy model (CL1, L30-33; CL2, L31-34; CL7, L48-55; CL11, L36-39), because that allows forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy (CL10, L48-49). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the method of **Matsuura** with the method of **Liepa** that included relaxing each garment piece from its position on the surface of the dummy model to its equilibrium position on the dummy model. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy.

Per claim 2: **Matsuura** teaches that the garment pieces are placed on the surface of the dummy model by establishing a bijective and continuous relationship between at least a portion of a garment piece and a corresponding portion of the surface of the dummy model (CL8, L20-25; CL9, L14-19; CL9, L22-27).

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Per claim 3: **Matsuura** teaches that the garment pieces are placed on the surface of the dummy model by establishing a bijective and continuous relationship between points representative of a garment piece and points on a corresponding portion of the surface of the dummy model (CL8, L20-25; CL9, L14-19; CL9, L22-27).

Per claim 4: **Matsuura** teaches that the establishing of a bijective and continuous relationship between a garment piece and a corresponding portion of the surface of the dummy model (CL8, L20-25; CL9, L14-19; CL9, L22-27), comprises:

selecting a portion of the dummy model that corresponds topologically or is topologically homologous, to the garment piece (CL8, L20-25; CL9, L14-19; CL9, L22-27); CL4, L10-14); and

deforming the piece to bring it to coincide with the projection (CL4, L18-21; CL10, L51-54; CL11, L34-40).

Per claim 5: **Matsuura** teaches that a triangulation of the garment piece is performed (CL10, L17-31); and

the triangulation of the piece is, deformed to bring it to coincide with the projection (CL2, L35-37; CL10, L29-31).

Per claim 6: **Matsuura** teaches that the triangulation of the piece being deformed (CL2, L35-37; CL10, L29-31), by:

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displacing points defining an outline of the piece to points on an outline of the projection (CL9, L14-19; CL10, L51-54; CL2, L35-37; CL11, L34-40; CL11, L53-56); and

displacing the points that are vertices of triangles within the outline of the piece (CL10, L18-31; CL11, L34-40; CL11, L53-56).

7.2 As per claim 8, **Matsuura** and **Liepa** teach the method of claim 1. **Matsuura** teaches subdividing the garment piece into a first set of portions (CL8, L20-25).

Matsuura does not expressly teach the relaxing of a garment piece. **Liepa** teaches the relaxing of a garment piece (CL1, L30-33; CL2, L31-34; CL7, L48-55; CL11, L36-39), because that allows forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy (CL10, L48-49). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the method of **Matsuura** with the method of **Liepa** that included the relaxing of a garment piece. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy.

Matsuura teaches modifying and deforming the set portions of the garment piece (CL11, L34-40; CL11, L53-56). **Matsuura** does not expressly teach deforming the set of portions while minimizing an energy function of the garment piece. **Liepa** teaches deforming the set of portions while minimizing an energy function of the garment piece (CL10, L43-49), because as per **Matsuura**, that allows the user to learn an estimated shape of assembled sewing patterns approximate to the wearing conditions of the clothes (garments) (CL2, L11-13; CL4, L28-33). It

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would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the method of **Matsuura** with the method of **Liepa** that included deforming the set of portions while minimizing an energy function of the garment piece. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow the user to learn an estimated shape of assembled sewing patterns approximate to the wearing conditions of the clothes (garments).

7.3 As per claim 9, **Matsuura** and **Liepa** teach the method of claim 8. **Matsuura** teaches subdividing the garment piece into a second set of portions that are smaller than the portions of the first set (CL10, L17-27).

Matsuura does not expressly teach the relaxing of the garment piece. **Liepa** teaches the relaxing of the garment piece (CL1, L30-33; CL2, L31-34; CL7, L48-55; CL11, L36-39), because that allows forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy (CL10, L48-49). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the method of **Matsuura** with the method of **Liepa** that included the relaxing of the garment piece. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy.

Matsuura teaches modifying and deforming the set portions of the garment piece (CL11, L34-40; CL11, L53-56). **Matsuura** does not expressly teach deforming the second set of portions while minimizing an energy function of the garment piece. **Liepa** teaches deforming the second set of portions while minimizing an energy function of the garment piece (CL10,

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L43-49), because as per **Matsuura**, that allows the user to learn an estimated shape of assembled sewing patterns approximate to the wearing conditions of the clothes (garments) (CL2, L11-13; CL4, L28-33). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the method of **Matsuura** with the method of **Liepa** that included deforming the second set of portions while minimizing an energy function of the garment piece. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow the user to learn an estimated shape of assembled sewing patterns approximate to the wearing conditions of the clothes (garments).

Per claim 12: **Matsuura** teaches that the deforming of the sets of portions (CL11, L34-40; CL11, L53-56) comprises:

a displacement along field lines coming from the dummy model (CL9, L22-27; CL4, L18-21); and

a displacement along the surface of the fabric, in the other directions (CL4, L18-21; CL4, L28-33).

Per claim 13: **Matsuura** teaches that data corresponding to the field lines is pre-stored (CL9, L22-27; CL10, L17-38).

Per claim 14: **Matsuura** teaches that the portions of the first and second sets of portions are connected zones of the garment piece (CL9, L22-27).

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Per claim 16: **Matsuura** teaches that two garment pieces are joined together prior to placing them on the surface of the dummy model (CL10, L51-54).

Per claim 17: **Matsuura** teaches that one of the garment pieces is subdivided into at least two subpieces before being placed on the surface of the dummy model (CL9, L22-27; CL10, L17-38).

7.4 As per claim 18, **Matsuura** and **Liepa** teach the method of claim 1. **Matsuura** teaches selecting one of the relaxed garment pieces referred to as a piece to be replaced; and selecting another garment piece referred to as a replacement piece (CL1, L31-32; CL2, L25-34);

placing the replacement piece on the surface of the dummy model and joining the replacement piece to the other pieces along its seam lines, where applicable (CL1, L35-37; CL2, L29-33; Fig. 11, S50; CL8, L27-30).

Matsuura teaches allowing the user to learn an estimated shape of assembled sewing patterns approximate to the wearing conditions of the clothes (garments) (CL2, L11-13; CL4, L28-33). **Matsuura** does not expressly teach relaxing all of the garment pieces from their position on the surface of the dummy to their equilibrium position on the dummy model. **Liepa** teaches relaxing all of the garment pieces from their position on the surface of the dummy to their equilibrium position on the dummy model (CL1, L30-33; CL2, L31-34; CL7, L48-55; CL11, L36-39), because that allows forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy (CL10, L48-49). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

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skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the method of **Matsuura** with the method of **Liepa** that included relaxing all of the garment pieces from their position on the surface of the dummy to their equilibrium position on the dummy model. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy.

7.5 As per claim 19, **Matsuura** and **Liepa** teach the method of claim 1. **Matsuura** teaches selecting one of the relaxed garment pieces referred to as a piece to be modified; modifying the piece (CL1, L31-32; CL2, L25-34);

placing the piece as modified on the surface of the dummy model; joining the modified piece to the other pieces along its seam lines, where applicable (CL1, L35-37; CL2, L29-33; Fig. 11, S50; CL8, L27-30).

Matsuura teaches allowing the user to learn an estimated shape of assembled sewing patterns approximate to the wearing conditions of the clothes (garments) (CL2, L11-13; CL4, L28-33). **Matsuura** does not expressly teach relaxing all of the pieces of the garment from their position on the surface of the dummy to their equilibrium position on the dummy model. **Liepa** teaches relaxing all of the pieces of the garment from their position on the surface of the dummy to their equilibrium position on the dummy model (CL1, L30-33; CL2, L31-34; CL7, L48-55; CL11, L36-39), because that allows forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy (CL10, L48-49). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the method of **Matsuura** with the

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method of **Liepa** that included relaxing all of the pieces of the garment from their position on the surface of the dummy to their equilibrium position on the dummy model. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy.

Per claim 20: **Matsuura** teaches a step of mechanically simulating the garment (CL2, L10-14; CL2, L29-41; CL4, L28-36)

7.6 As per claim 22, **Matsuura** teaches an apparatus for viewing garment pieces on a dummy model having a surface (Fig. 3; Fig 1, Item 1400; Figs. 17-19 and 22; CL1, L9-13; CL1, L21-23; Fig. 11, Item S40; CL9, L22-27; CL10, L51-54; CL1, 48-50; CL1, L51-55; CL2, L25-28; Figs. 7 and 8; Fig. 11, S30; CL8, L20-25; CL9, L63-64; CL10, L29-31; CL10, L32-33); the apparatus comprising:

computer means (Fig. 3), for:

placing the garment pieces on the surface of the dummy model and joining together the garment pieces along their seam lines (CL1, L35-37; CL2, L29-33; Fig. 11, S50; CL8, L27-30); and

viewing means for viewing the dummy model and the garment pieces on the dummy model (Fig. 3; Fig 1, Item 1400; Figs. 17-19 and 22; CL1, L9-13).

Matsuura teaches allowing the user to learn an estimated shape of assembled sewing patterns approximate to the wearing conditions of the clothes (garments) (CL2, L11-13; CL4,

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L28-33). **Matsuura** does not expressly teach relaxing the pieces of the garment from their position on the surface of the dummy model to their equilibrium position on the dummy model.

Liepa teaches relaxing the pieces of the garment from their position on the surface of the dummy model to their equilibrium position on the dummy model (CL1, L30-33; CL2, L31-34; CL7, L48-55; CL11, L36-39), because that allows forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy (CL10, L48-49). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the apparatus of **Matsuura** with the apparatus of **Liepa** that included relaxing the pieces of the garment from their position on the surface of the dummy model to their equilibrium position on the dummy model. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow forming vertices in their rest position corresponding to the position of minimum energy.

Per claim 23: **Matsuura** teaches having means for previewing the selected dummy model or the selected garment pieces (CL2, L29-41).

Per claim 24: **Matsuura** teaches means for modifying a selected garment piece or for replacing a garment piece with another garment piece (CL1, L31-32; CL2, L25-34).

Per claim 25: **Matsuura** teaches means for selecting garment pieces from a pre-established garment database (CL1, L21-23; CL2, L45-48).

Per claim 26: **Matsuura** teaches means for selecting a dummy model from a pre-established dummy model database (CL1, L21-23; CL2, L45-48; CL8, L20-25; CL9, L14-19; CL10, L32-33).

Per claim 27: **Matsuura** teaches means for storing data relating to the garment pieces and/or to the dummy model (CL9, L14-19; CL9, L22-27; CL10, L17-38).

8. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Matsuura** (U.S. Patent 5,615,318) in view of **Liepa** (U.S. Patent 6,232,980), and further in view of **Klamar** (U.S. Patent 4,137,634).

8.1 As per claim 15, **Matsuura** and **Liepa** teach the method of claim 1. **Matsuura** does not expressly teach that a garment piece is provided with a dart cut which is closed prior to placing the piece on the surface of the dummy model. **Klamar** teaches that a garment piece is provided with a dart cut which is closed prior to placing the piece on the surface of the dummy model (CL5, L62 to CL6, L6; CL8, L29-36), because darts are provided to indicate where the pattern is to be cut and once the pattern has been cut the pattern is sewn by closing the darts (CL5, L62 to CL6, L6; CL8, L29-36). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the method of **Matsuura** with the method of **Klamar** that included a garment piece being provided with a dart cut which was closed prior to placing the piece on the surface of the dummy model. The artisan would have been motivated because darts

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would be provided to indicate where the pattern would be cut and once the pattern had been cut the pattern would be sewn by closing the darts.

9. Claims 21, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Matsuura** (U.S. Patent 5,615,318) in view of **Liepa** (U.S. Patent 6,232,980), and further in view of **Beavin** (U.S. Patent 5,495,568).

9.1 As per claim 21, **Matsuura** and **Liepa** teach pre-viewing the garment on a dummy model using a method according to claim 1, as explained in Paragraph 7.1 above.

Matsuura does not expressly teach a method of making garment pieces, and making the pieces of the garment. **Beavin** teaches a method of making garment pieces, and making the pieces of the garment (Abstract, L34-41; Fig 1), because that would allow an automated cutting machine to be directly controlled for cutting a garment's required pieces to make accurately tailored garments (CL2, L22-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the method of **Matsuura** with the method of **Beavin** that included a method of making garment pieces, and making the pieces of the garment. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow an automated cutting machine to be directly controlled for cutting a garment's required pieces to make accurately tailored garments.

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9.2 As per claim 28, **Matsuura** and **Liepa** teach viewing apparatus according to claim 22, as explained in Paragraph 7.6 above.

Matsuura does not expressly teach an apparatus for making garment pieces, the apparatus comprising cutting-out means for cutting out garment pieces. **Beavin** teaches an apparatus for making garment pieces, the apparatus comprising cutting-out means for cutting out garment pieces (Abstract, L34-41; Fig 1), because that would allow an automated cutting machine to be directly controlled for cutting a garment's required pieces to make accurately tailored garments (CL2, L22-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the apparatus of **Matsuura** with the apparatus of **Beavin** that included an apparatus for making garment pieces, the apparatus comprising cutting-out means for cutting out garment pieces. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow an automated cutting machine to be directly controlled for cutting a garment's required pieces to make accurately tailored garments.

Matsuura does not expressly teach data-transmission means for transmitting data between the viewing apparatus and the cutting-out means for cutting out the garment pieces. **Beavin** teaches data-transmission means for transmitting data between the viewing apparatus and the cutting-out means for cutting out the garment pieces (CL1, L50-57; CL2, L18-25), because that would allow an automated cutting machine to be directly controlled for cutting a garment's required pieces to make accurately tailored garments (CL2, L22-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the apparatus of **Matsuura** with the apparatus of **Beavin** that included data-transmission means for

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transmitting data between the viewing apparatus and the cutting-out means for cutting out the garment pieces. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow an automated cutting machine to be directly controlled for cutting a garment's required pieces to make accurately tailored garments.

9.3 As per claim 29, **Matsuura, Liepa and Beavin** teach viewing apparatus of claim 28. **Matsuura** does not expressly teach the cutting-out means for cutting out the garment pieces being controlled by a microcomputer, and the data-transmission means interconnecting the viewing apparatus and the micro-computer. **Beavin** teaches the cutting-out means for cutting out the garment pieces being controlled by a microcomputer, and the data-transmission means interconnecting the viewing apparatus and the micro-computer (Fig 1, Items 1000 and 600; CL2, L22-25), because that would allow an automated cutting machine to be directly controlled for cutting a garment's required pieces to make accurately tailored garments (CL2, L22-25). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the apparatus of **Matsuura** with the apparatus of **Beavin** that included the cutting-out means for cutting out the garment pieces being controlled by a microcomputer, and the data-transmission means interconnecting the viewing apparatus and the micro-computer. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow an automated cutting machine to be directly controlled for cutting a garment's required pieces to make accurately tailored garments.

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10. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Matsuura** (U.S. Patent 5,615,318) in view of **Liepa** (U.S. Patent 6,232,980), and further in view of **Beavin** (U.S. Patent 5,495,568) and **Sakaguchi** (U.S. Patent 6,310,627).

10.1 As per claim 30, **Matsuura**, **Liepa** and **Beavin** teach viewing apparatus of claim 28.

Matsuura does not expressly teach the data transmission means being part of a communications network. **Beavin** teaches the data transmission means being part of a communications network (Fig 28; CL2, L56-67), because that would allow saving the image data based on the information on the garment to be saved on a server and communicating the data from the server to the display terminal (CL2, L59-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicants' invention to modify the apparatus of **Matsuura** with the apparatus of **Beavin** that included the data transmission means being part of a communications network. The artisan would have been motivated because that would allow saving the image data based on the information on the garment to be saved on a server and communicating the data from the server to the display terminal.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 7, 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 7 includes the method of claim 5 and further includes the limitation “the triangulation being deformed while satisfying a constraint whereby the triangles of the triangulation of the piece are not turned over”. The closest prior art in references by **Matsuura, Liepa, Beavin and Phillips.** does not teach this limitation. Therefore, this claim is allowable.

Claim 10 includes the method of claim 8 and further includes the limitation “the energy function represents the traction energy of the garment piece”. The closest prior art in references by **Matsuura, Liepa, Beavin and Phillips.** does not teach this limitation. Therefore, this claim is allowable.

Claim 11 includes the method of claim 8 and further includes the limitation “the energy function of the garment piece is computed relative to the position of the piece in two dimensions, and as a function of a value for the stiffness K of a fabric”. The closest prior art in references by **Matsuura, Liepa, Beavin and Phillips.** does not teach this limitation. Therefore, this claim is allowable.

Conclusion

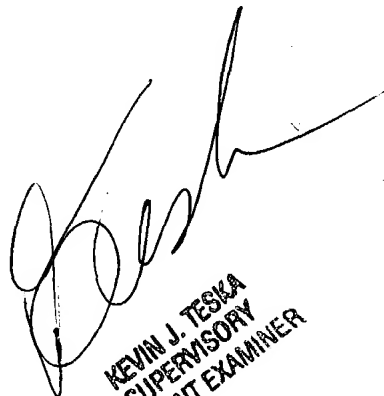
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kandasamy Thangavelu whose telephone number is 703-305-0043, till October 27, 2004 and 571-272-3717 after October 27, 2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Teska, can be reached on (703) 305-9704, till October 27, 2004 and 571-272-3716 after October 27, 2004. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9600.

K. Thangavelu
Art Unit 2123
September 17, 2004



KEVIN J. TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER